

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 SS-15
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DEPT FOR OES/APT/SEP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: COAL (08.03)

1. AS NOTED REFTEL, US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN COAL (08.03), HAS SHOWN LITTLE MOVEMENT TO DATE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WORTHWHILE TO ATTEMPT ACTIVATION OF THIS AREA AT THE FORTHCOMING JCM, IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING ATTENTION THE SOVIETS ARE UDOUBTEDLY GIVING TO COAL AS A REPLACEMENT FOR PETROLEUM FOR DOMESTIC USE. (WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOVIET SOURCES OF PLANS TO RAISE COAL PRODUCTION TO 800 MILLION TONS PER YEAR BY THE END OF THIS FIVE-YEAR PLAN -- AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 10 PER CENT FROM CURRENT LEVELS.) WHILE SOVIET COAL TECHNOLOGY GENERALLY LAGS BEHIND THE WEST, THERE APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST TWO AREAS IN WHICH COOPERATION COULD BE PRODUCTIVE.

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2. IN THIS VEIN, JOHN DOWNES, AUSTRALIAN SCICOUNS, ADVISED US OF A RECENT AUSTRALIAN COAL DELEGATION VISIT IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING SOVIET COAL EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGIES APPEARED IMPRESSIVE:

(A) HYDRAULIC REMOVAL OF COAL (SOVIET EQUIPMENT IS

DEPENDABLE BUT INEXPENSIVE; COAL OUTPUT PER MAN IS DOUBLED WHILE GENERAL SAFETY IS IMPROVED, AND CLOSED LOOP PREVENTS ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE).

(B) LONG-WALL TECHNIQUE (80-85 PER CENT YIELD, VERSUS AUSTRALIAN 60 - 65 PER CENT RECOVERY).

(C) FIRST SUCCESSFUL BUCKET-WHEEL EXTRACTION OF HARD COAL (EKIBASTUZ).

ACCORDING TO DOWNES, SOVIET COAL AUTHORITIES WERE FORTHCOMING, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WORKING WITH AUSTRALIANS ON ROCK-BURST AND DEGASSING TECHNIQUES. TOON

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